

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and further examination are requested.

Claims 1-3, 6, 18, 20 and 23-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujinami (US 5,881,203) in view Tanoue (US 6,298,033) and Kikuchi (US 5,870,523). Claims 9 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujinami in view of Tanoue and Kikuchi and further in view of Lenihan (US 6,169,843).

Claims 1-3, 6, 9 and 23-27 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. Further, new claims 28-31 have been added.

The above-mentioned rejections are submitted to be inapplicable to the pending claims for the following reasons.

Claim 18 is patentable over the combination of Fujinami, Tanoue and Kikuchi, since claim 18 recites an information recording apparatus including, in part, a generating section for determining whether an input object is a first object or a second object, generating management information including map information for the first object, and setting a validity flag in the management information to a valid state, when the input object is determined to be a first object, and generating management information for the second object, and setting the validity flag in the management information to an invalid state, when the input object is determined to be a second object, wherein the map information correlates a playback time of a corresponding first object with a location of intra-coded picture data included in the corresponding first object. The combination of Fujinami, Tanoue and Kikuchi fails to disclose or suggest these features of claim 18.

In the combination, Fujinami is relied upon as disclosing the map information as recited in claim 18. To this end, it is noted that Fujinami does disclose a MAP information storage device 35 that stores information entered from an external input device, and is controlled by a controller 8 so that the information stored in the MAP information storage device 35 will be read out each time the information constitutes an entry sector and will be subsequently stored in the entry sector. Further, if the information is such that it uses the position of a future entry sector, the position of the entry sector is read out from an entry point storage device 33 and supplied to a DSM 10 for recording therein. (See column 8, lines 23-32; column 12, lines 6-14; and Figure 1).

Based on the above discussion of the MAP information storage device 35, it is apparent that the MAP information storage device 35 stores information related to an address of an entry point of an object using information in the address domain. The information stored in the MAP information storage device 35 which directly specifies an address in the address domain is generally used for a ROM medium in which a recording position of the object is fixed. On the other hand, the claimed map information correlates a playback time of a corresponding first object with a location of the intra-coded picture data included in the corresponding first object. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Fujinami that the information stored in the MAP information storage device 35 correlates playback time. Therefore, it is submitted that the MAP information storage device 35 of Fujinami does not store information corresponding to the map information recited in claim 18. Further, it is submitted that Tanoue and Kikuchi also fail to disclose or suggest the map information as recited in claim 18.

In addition, Kikuchi is relied upon as disclosing the claimed validity flag. Kikuchi does disclose a flag (V_FWD_Exist1) that indicates whether video data exists in a video object unit (VOBU) 85. The flag (V_FWD_Exist1) is indicated in the rejection as corresponding to the claimed validity flag. However, the flag (V_FWD_Exist1) is defined such that when the flag is set to 0, the flag provides an indication that there is no video data in the video object unit (VOBU), and when the flag is set to 1, the flag provides an indication that there is video data in the video object unit (VOBU). (See column 20, line 66 – column 21, line 53).

As discussed above, the flag (V_FWD_Exist1) indicates whether or not video data exists in the video object unit (VOBU). On the other hand, the claimed validity flag indicates whether there is valid map information, which manages a location on which an intra-coded picture of the object is recorded. As a result, it is apparent that the flag (V_FWD_Exist1) of Kikuchi does not correspond to the claimed validity flag, since the two flags have different purposes. Further, it is apparent that Fujinami and Tanoue also fail to disclose or suggest the validity flag as recited in claim 18.

As for Tanoue, it is relied upon in the combination as disclosing the use of an error correction code (ECC). However, as mentioned above, Tanoue fails to disclose or suggest the above-discussed features recited in claim 18.

In light of the above discussion of Fujinami, Tanoue and Kikuchi, it is submitted that the combination of Fujinami, Tanoue and Kikuchi fails to render claim 18 obvious.

Also, Lenihan is relied upon as disclosing the concept of recording by converting a program stream into a transport stream. However, it is apparent that Lenihan also fails to disclose or suggest the above-discussed features recited in claim 18.

As for claims 20 and 28, they are patentable over the references relied upon in the rejections for reasons similar to those set forth above in support of claim 18. That is, claims 20 and 28 each recite map information and a validity flag in a manner similar to that discussed above regarding claim 18. As a result, it is submitted that claims 20 and 28 are also allowable over the references.

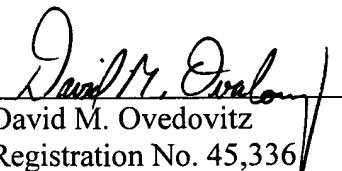
Because of the above-mentioned distinctions, it is believed clear that claims 18, 20 and 28-31 are allowable over the references relied upon in the rejections. Furthermore, it is submitted that the distinctions are such that a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention would not have been motivated to make any combination of the references of record in such a manner as to result in, or otherwise render obvious, the present invention as recited in claims 18, 20 and 28-31. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 18, 20 and 28-31 are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Tomoyuki OKADA et al.

By:



David M. Ovedovitz
Registration No. 45,336
Attorney for Applicants

DMO/jmj
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
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